

Three-goal blitz wrecks Wanderers

Same again, Rebels!

DOUBTS that Slough Town are good enough to win the Isthmian League Premier Division championship vanished at Loakes Park on Saturday when the Rebels crushed arch rivals Wycombe in the first of two eagerly-awaited holiday clashes between the sides.

Wycombe, who had nurtured their own championship aspirations with a series of fine results, now come to Wexham Park tomorrow (Thursday) seeking revenge for this huge dent not only in their pride, but to their title chances.

If Slough win again, Wycombe's hopes will virtually disappear while the Rebels, with a whole batch of games in hand over leaders Enfield, will find themselves in the strongest position as the league campaign enters its final third.

With Wycombe playing some

brilliant football over the last two months, few would have predicted a Slough victory at Loakes Park, let alone one of such emphatic proportions, and another dose of the same at Wexham tomorrow will do wonders for the morale of the Laurie Churchill troops.

Delight

The Town manager usually remains tight-lipped after matches, but could not conceal his delight at this towering performance over the team Slough most love to beat.

The last two months have been difficult for Churchill,

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who has been bombarded with injury problems and has watched his side struggle to recapture their early season form.

But it all came back in front of 1,800 fans at Loakes Park. It was the most important league meeting between the sides for some time, with Wycombe lying second and Slough capable of going clear at the top by winning outstanding fixtures, and in the end it was the Rebels who showed more of the pedigree required to win titles.

A stunning six-minute period in which Slough scored three times left Wycombe reeling.

Slough, looking more adventurous than in recent matches away from home, threatened several times in the opening half hour and finally broke through in the 31st minute when Pat Morrissey's free kick was headed home by the diving Eric Young.

Then Terry Reardon's experience sprung the Wycombe offside trap, and as he released the ball, Russell sped through at just the right moment to round goalkeeper Lester for Slough's second.

The amber and blue contingent in the crowd gave full vent to their delight at these two goals, and there was another to follow before bewildered Wycombe had time to recover. Micky Kiely was unlucky to see his snap shot hit the crossbar after good work by Friend, but Eggie James

latched on to the rebound and gave Lester no chance.

Richard Teale kept Wanderers at bay until the 88th minute, when Terry Glynn gave them some consolation with an adventurous individual goal, but this was Slough's day to the end and they sealed victory two minutes from time. Again Kiely broke through, only to see his shot beaten away by Lester to the feet of Eggie James, who had the empty goal at his mercy.

Pressure

It was a tremendous performance from the rebels and although they must guard against complacency, they have put Wycombe under tremendous pressure for tomorrow's game at Wexham Park.

Wycombe cannot afford to lose, and they will want to convince their fans that Saturday's result was a fluke. The only way that can do so is by a convincing victory, and Slough will be in no mood to accommodate them.

On Saturday Slough are at home to Boreham Wood, to whom they lost in the league earlier in December.

Wycombe: Lester, Birdseye, Borg, Davies, Mead, Dell, Long, Glynn, Jacobs, Toll, Hollifield. Sub - Scott (for Dell).

Slough: Teale, Yerby, Beyer, Young, Norman, Reardon, Russell, Friend, Kiely, Morrissey, James. Sub - Poynter.

Isthmian Premier Division (leading positions)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	30	15	8	7	56	34	53
Wycombe	28	14	7	7	52	34	49
Slough	24	13	8	3	38	22	47
Sutton	27	13	8	6	51	38	47
Harrow	27	13	6	8	46	29	45
Dulwich	27	11	10	6	46	37	43



Dave Russell, who played a prominent part in Slough's convincing victory over Wycombe Wanderers.